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The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the Government's policy is to encourage this sort of industry ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Yes."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" If so, may I know whether it will not be up to them to make enquiries as to how much yarn is produced in each district ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I cannot say ; it is difficult."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know whether the Government have any policy defined for themselves to further this industry ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I cannot say at present."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Cannot this information be got very easily at least from the districts where survey of cottage industries has been carried on ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I cannot say."

Mr. P ANJANEYULU :—" Do they contemplate formulating any policy in this respect ? "

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It will be considered at the time of passing orders. "

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" In view of the importance of this industry in this Presidency, will the Government find out how much yarn is produced ? "

The hon. Mr. M R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" We shall try, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why Government did not call for the figures from the All-India Spinners' Association, or whether they did ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" No."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Does the hon. Minister know the existence of it ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I know it quite well."

Public Works

Conversion of the Ghaut Road between Mettupalayam and Coonoor into a trunk road.

* 1210 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that due to heavy rains the Ghaut Road between Mettupalayam and Coonoor is impossible for all traffic and that consequently the people are greatly inconvenienced in getting their necessary food-stuffs at the usual prices ;

(b) whether the Government are considering the advisability of maintaining a proper alternate route to the Nilgiris Hills from Mettupalayam ;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering the advisability of taking over the Kotagiri Ghaut Road from the Nilgiris District Board and maintaining it as a pucca trunk road ;

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(*d*) how long it will take for the Public Works Department to repair the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Ghaut Road;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Nilgiris District Board has submitted proposals and estimates for converting the Segur Road into a trunk road; and

(*f*) what the decision of the Government is thereon and whether the Government propose to make sufficient provision in the next budget for making this a trunk road?

A.—(*a*) Yes, the Government received reports of the damages caused to the road making traffic impossible for some time and it is therefore likely that people were put to some inconvenience in getting necessary food-stuffs at the usual prices.

(*b*) The Government have already considered the question and have decided that the Mettupalayam-Kotagiri Road should be made to serve the purpose.

(*c*) No. The Government consider that it is only necessary to maintain the road in a condition fit to carry trunk road traffic on occasions when the main ghaut road is closed.

(*d*) The road was opened for traffic on the 1st January 1929.

(*e*) Yes

(*f*) The Government cannot hold out any hope that this road will be classified as a trunk road in the near future. They are prepared, however, to consider detailed proposals for its general improvement and await these from the district board concerned.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know, in view of the importance of this road, whether the Government will be pleased to reconsider the matter and make a thorough investigation?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"It will be considered."

Tenders for the construction of the new out-patients department in the Madras General Hospital.

*1211-A Q.—Dr. B. S MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) whether tenders were called for by the Executive Engineer, North Presidency Division, for constructing the out-patient department under the new General Hospital scheme;

(*b*) from how many persons tenders were received; and

(*c*) the names and other particulars of the persons who offered to take up the work?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Seven.

(*c*) The names of the tenderers are—

1. N. Selvaperumal Mudaliyar,
2. A. L. Viswanatha Chetti,
3. C. Dharmalinga Mudaliyar,
4. The General Construction Company, Limited,
5. T. Namberumal Chetti,
6. Messrs. Gannon Dunkerly & Co., Limited, and
7. P. Thirulokanatha Mudaliyar.

It is not clear what the hon. Member means by "other particulars."